

REMARKS

Claims 1-7, 9-17, 19, and 43-54 were pending as of the Office Action mailed June 23, 2010. Claims 1, 53, and 54 are in independent form. Claims 1-7, 10-17, 19, 44-45, 47-51, and 53-54 are being amended. Claims 9, 43, 46, and 52 are being canceled. No new matter has been added. Support for the amended claims can be found within the applicant's specification at least at page 4, line 5 to page 5, line 18 and FIG. 3.

Reconsideration and reexamination of the application is respectfully requested in light of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Interview Summary

The applicant thanks Examiner Parker for the courtesy of the in-person interview on April 21, 2010. The time spent with the applicant's representatives Tim Wilson, John Biernacki, and Arrienne M. Lezak was greatly appreciated. During the interview, the claims were discussed in view of the cited references. Recommendations were made by the examiner. These recommendations have been incorporated into the claims as noted above.

Section 103 Rejections

Claims 1-7, 9, 17, 19, and 44-54 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,720,982 ("Sakaguchi") in view of U.S. Publication No. 2002/0105548 ("Hayton").

Claims 10-12, 15, 16, and 43 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Sakaguchi and Hayton and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,639,610 ("Sponheim").

Claim 1

To expedite prosecution, and in accordance with the examiner's recommendations, claim 1 has been amended as noted above. The applicant respectfully submits that the teachings of Sakaguchi and Hayton, alone or in combination, do not teach or describe each and every aspect of claim 1, as amended. Thus, the applicant submits that claim 1 is allowable.

Remaining Claims

Claims 2-7, 10-17, 19 and 44-45, 47-51 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for at least the reasons that apply to that independent claim. Claims 9, 43, 46, and 52 have been cancelled. Claims 53 and 54 contain limitations corresponding to claim 1 and are allowable for at least the reasons that apply to claim 1.

Withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is therefore respectfully requested.

Conclusion

The applicant respectfully requests that all pending claims be allowed.

By responding in the foregoing remarks only to particular positions taken by the examiner, the applicant does not acquiesce with other positions that have not been explicitly addressed. In addition, the applicant selecting some particular arguments for the patentability of a claim should not be understood as implying that no other reasons for the patentability of that claim exist. Finally, the applicant's decision to amend or cancel any claim should not be understood as implying that the applicant agrees with any positions taken by the examiner with respect to that claim or other claims.

Please apply any charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 50-1432, reference No. 343355-600075.

Respectfully submitted,

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